

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

WHAT NEXT?



Oil floats near the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Louisiana, Monday, May 31, 2010.

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SPORTS NEWS

BUSCH'S GARDEN



Kurt Busch celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series' Coca-Cola 600 auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., Sunday, May 30, 2010.

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This video image released by the Turkish Aid group IHH Monday May 31, 2010 purports to show Israeli soldiers aiming a gun on the deck of a Turkish ship, part of an aid convoy heading to the Gaza Strip, after Israeli soldiers boarded the vessel in international waters off the Gaza coast. Israeli commandos on Monday stormed six ships carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists on an aid mission to the blockaded Gaza Strip, killing 9 people and wounding dozens after encountering unexpected resistance as the forces boarded the vessels.

Associated Press Writers

Bloody Israeli raid on flotilla sparks crisis

STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli commandos rappelled down to an aid flotilla sailing to thwart a Gaza blockade on Monday, clashing with pro-Palestinian activists on the lead ship in a botched raid that

left at least nine passengers dead.

Bloodied passengers sprawled on the deck and troops dived into the sea to save themselves during several hours of hand-to-hand fighting that injured dozens of activists and six soldiers. Hundreds of activists were towed from the international

waters to Israeli detention centers and hospitals.

International condemnation was swift and harsh as Israel scrambled to explain how what was meant to be a simple takeover of a civilian vessel went so badly awry.

Continued on page 6

U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Iraq mark Memorial Day

HEIDI VOGT

Associated Press Writer

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. forces serving in Afghanistan and Iraq remembered friends and colleagues Monday in solemn Memorial Day ceremonies to commemorate all of their nation's war dead.

As some soldiers paused, violence raged on in both places.

Continued on page 5



President Barack Obama takes the stage in a driving rain storm to encourage the crowd to go to their cars for safety during Memorial Day ceremonies at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill. Monday, May 31, 2010.

Associated Press

After rain-out, Obama delivers speech back home

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press Writer

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Maryland (AP) — President Barack Obama said Monday that the meaning of Memorial Day is found in the story of ordinary Americans who become extraordinary for one simple reason: love of country.

Obama, speaking to dozens of troops at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington after his tribute in Illinois was washed out by a storm, said the nation's fallen heroes had such a deep love of country that they willingly sacrificed their own lives to protect it.

Continued on next page

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Fallen troops

Continued from front page

"In this time of war, we pay special tribute to the thousands of Americans who have given their lives during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and who have earned their place among the greatest of generations," Obama said in the Monday evening speech.

Vice President Joe Biden earlier made the more traditional appearance at Arlington National Cemetery on Obama's behalf, saying the country has "a sacred obligation" to make sure its servicemen and women are the best equipped and best-supported troops in the world. "As a nation, we pause to remember them," Biden said. "They gave their lives fulfilling their oath to this nation and to us." Obama had readied a similar message of gratitude for his appearance at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois, and actually had taken the podium to give the address when the skies opened up with a downpour



Vice President Joe Biden stands with Maj. Gen. Karl R. Horst, commander of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2010, in Arlington, Va.
Associated Press

and thunder, lightning and high winds.

Under the cover of a large umbrella, Obama told thousands gathered that "a little bit of rain doesn't hurt anybody, but we don't want anybody being struck by lightning." He asked people to return to their cars for their safety, and he retreated briefly to an administration building on the cemetery's grounds. A few minutes later Obama boarded a pair of buses

to greet military families that came for the event.

Before the storm hit, and in advance of his appearance at the podium, Obama had visited a section of headstones where two Marines awaited him. After laying a wreath, he bowed his head in a moment of silence, his hands tightly clasped. Then a lone bugler played taps.

After leaving the cemetery, Obama met privately with families of veterans and service

members currently living at the Fisher House in Hines, Illinois. It serves as a home away from home for family members whose loved ones are getting treatment at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Hines, which is about 12 miles west of downtown Chicago.

At Arlington, Biden carried out the traditional wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns under a brilliant sunshine.

The vice president, accompanied by Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the country's service members are "the heart and soul and, I would say, spine of this nation." He said taking part in the annual ceremony was "the greatest honor of my public life."

Obama's decision to appear in Illinois, rather than at the national burial grounds at Arlington, had been controversial, and some veterans groups criticized him for it, although he was not the first president to bypass the annual outing.

Paul Rieckhoff, founder and executive director of the group

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said Arlington is the focal point of the nation's and military's attention on Memorial Day. "When he's not here, it doesn't look like he's on the same page," Rieckhoff said. Rieckhoff said U.S. service men and women need Obama to use the bully pulpit to remind people that the holiday is not about going to the beach or barbecuing.

"We appreciate that the vice president is going to be here, but it's not the same," Rieckhoff said.

Jay Agg, a spokesman for the veterans group AMVETS, said the annual ceremony at Arlington is "the ideal place for the president to observe Memorial Day. However, his choice to honor our fallen at another national cemetery as other presidents have done is entirely appropriate."

In an e-mail, Agg accused some people of using the day "as an opportunity to score cheap political points on the backs of our veterans and in doing so dishonor them and distract from the true meaning and purpose of Memorial Day."



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B-17 drops flowers in NY to honor CIA casualties

FARMINGDALE, New York (AP) — Historic aircraft escorted a B-17 bomber before it dropped flowers over the Statue of Liberty in a public Memorial Day tribute to seven CIA employees killed in Afghanistan. Two World War II aircraft from the American Airpower Museum on Long Island took off with the bomber and flew with it before breaking formation because of strong winds as the bomber approached a site in New York Harbor near where the World Trade Center stood. Museum spokesman Gary Lewi said officials decided to honor the fallen CIA employees after it appeared no other Memorial Day commemoration in the country had been planned.

Museum president Jeff Clyman said such a public acknowledgment is rare. “The knowledge that seven CIA personnel were killed at the hands of a terrorist compels us to pause and remember these patriots who fully understood the mortal danger they faced and yet deliberately went into harm’s way to protect our homeland and our lives,” Clyman said in a statement. A CIA spokeswoman said it was the only memorial to all seven the agency has been told about. The seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed when a suicide bomber detonated explosives at a tightly secured CIA base in Khost province, a dangerous region southeast

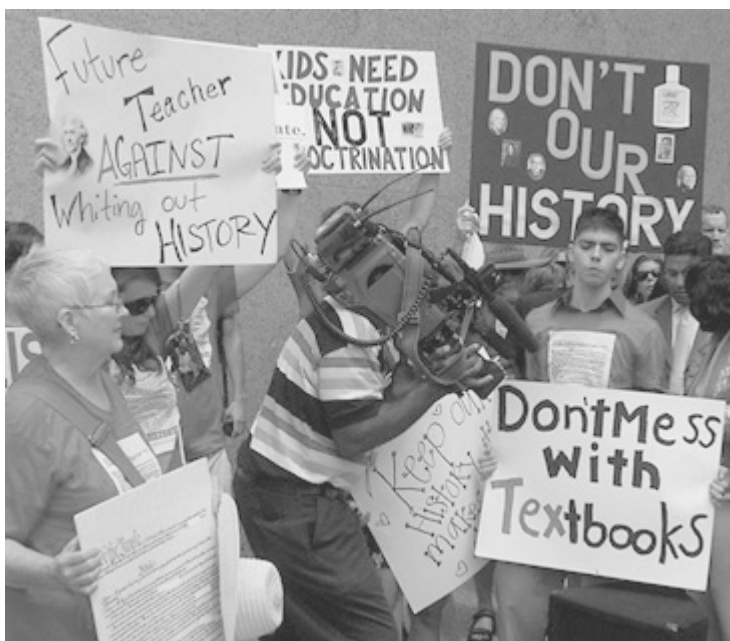
of the Afghan capital, Kabul. The CIA had cultivated the bomber, a Jordanian doctor, in hopes of obtaining information about al-Qaida’s second in command, but he turned out to be a double-agent. President Barack Obama honored the seven at CIA headquarters in February at a memorial service that was closed to the media. The names of those killed have not been revealed, reflecting the confidentiality under which the CIA operates. Michael J. Sulick, director of the National Clandestine Service of the CIA, and U.S. Rep. Steve Israel participated in the Memorial Day service. Sulick spoke on a ramp filled with World War II aircraft before a crowd of about 250



In this photo provided by the American Airpower Museum, Michael J. Sulick, right, Director of the National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency, accompanied by Rabbi Harvey Abramowitz, prepares to release a dozen roses over the Statue of Liberty in New York, on Monday, May 31, 2010, from a World War II B-17 Flying Fortress to pay tribute to seven CIA employees who were killed in a bomb blast in Afghanistan set off by a double agent. Associated Press

Experts: Texas textbooks are unlikely to spread

PAUL J. WEBER
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Critics feared the new, more conservative curriculum in Texas schools would spread elsewhere. But publishing experts say those concerns are overblown, thanks to new technologies that give schools more flexibility. After months of discussion, the Texas Board of Education last week approved placing greater emphasis on the Judeo-Christian influences of America’s founders and teaching schoolchildren that the words “separation of church and state” do not appear in the Constitution. As the second-largest purchaser of textbooks behind California, Texas has historically wielded enormous clout in deciding what material appears in classrooms across the country. That’s why the state school board’s recent decision to adopt new social studies standards was closely watched far beyond Texas. In Washington, Education Secretary Arne Duncan called the process a case of politicians deciding curriculum. California



In this May 19, 2010, file photo a member of the media takes close-up video of a protest sign at a “Don’t White-Out Our History” rally outside a State Board of Education meeting in Austin, Texas. After months of ideological haggling, the conservative-led Texas education board approved revisions last week that were watched closely from California lawmakers to U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan. But concerns over finding those changes in a textbook outside Texas those are overblown, publishing experts say.

Associated Press

lawmakers went a step further, proposing that education officials there comb through textbooks to ensure that Texas material isn’t twisting the history curriculum. This year, as states weigh

which textbooks to buy, many “are going to be asking whether this was the book that went to Texas,” said Kathy Mickey, an analyst at Simba Information, a market research firm.

people. He said, given his title, the idea of appearing in public was unusual but so was the loss of so many agents, so he made an exception. “The CIA is deeply grateful to the museum for honoring our colleagues who made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan while courageously serving our nation,” Sulick said. “I’m honored to represent the agency

at the Memorial Day event, which promises to be a fitting tribute to their strength and dedication.” The museum president’s son, Major Scott Clyman, an F-16 fighter pilot who served in Afghanistan, presented Sulick with an American flag he carried aboard the fighter while serving in the area where the suicide bombing took place.



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Relief for Gulf is 2 months away with another well

MATTHEW BROWN,
 Associated Press Writer
 NEW ORLEANS (AP) —
 The best hope for stopping the
 flow of oil from the blown-out
 well at the bottom of the Gulf
 of Mexico has been compared
 to hitting a target the size of a
 dinner plate with a drill more
 than two miles into the earth,
 and is anything but a sure bet
 on the first attempt.
 Bid after bid has failed to
 stanch what has already
 become the worst-ever U.S. oil
 spill, and BP PLC is readying

another patchwork attempt as
 early as Wednesday, this one
 a cut-and-cap process to put
 a lid on the leaking wellhead
 so oil can be siphoned to the
 surface.
 President Barack Obama
 planned to meet Tuesday
 at the White House with
 the co-chairmen of an
 independent commission he
 established to investigate the
 catastrophic oil spill, said a
 senior administration official,
 speaking on condition of
 anonymity because the

meeting had not been formally
 announced.

Meanwhile, Attorney General
 Eric Holder planned to visit
 the Gulf Coast Tuesday to see
 areas affected by the oil spill
 and meet with state attorneys
 general from Louisiana,
 Alabama and Mississippi
 and several U.S. prosecutors.
 Several U.S. senators have
 asked the Justice Department
 to determine whether criminal
 or civil laws were broken in
 the spill.

The best-case scenario of
 sealing the leak is two relief
 wells being drilled diagonally
 into the gushing well — tricky
 business that won't be ready
 until August.

"The probability of them
 hitting it on the very first shot
 is virtually nil," said David
 Rensink, incoming president
 of the American Association
 of Petroleum Geologists, who
 spent most of his 39 years in
 the oil industry in offshore
 exploration. "If they get it on
 the first three or four shots
 they'd be very lucky."

For the relief well to succeed,
 the bore hole must precisely
 intersect the damaged well.
 If it misses, BP will have to
 back up its drill, plug the hole
 it just created, and try again.
 The trial-and-error process
 could take weeks, but it will
 eventually work, scientists
 and BP said. Engineers will
 then pump mud and cement
 through pipes to ultimately
 seal the well.

As the drilling reaches deeper
 into the earth, the process is
 slowed by building pressure
 and the increasing distance
 that well casings must travel
 before they can be set in place.
 Still, the three months it could
 take to finish the relief wells
 — the first of which started
 May 2 — is quicker than a
 typical deep well, which can
 take four months or longer,
 said Tad Patzek, chair of the



Oil floats around a rig at the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Louisiana, Monday, May 31, 2010.

Associated Press

Petroleum and Geosystems
 Engineering Department
 at the University of Texas-
 Austin. BP already has a good
 picture of the different layers
 of sand and rock its drill bits
 will meet because of the work
 it did on the blown-out well.
 On the slim chance the relief
 well doesn't work, scientists
 weren't sure exactly how
 much — or how long — the oil
 would flow. The gusher would
 continue until the well bore
 hole collapsed or pressure
 in the reservoir dropped to a
 point where oil was no longer
 pushed to the surface, Patzek
 said.

"I don't admit the possibility
 of it not working," he said.
 A third well could be drilled if
 the first two fail.

"We don't know how much oil
 is down there, and hopefully
 we'll never know when
 the relief wells work," BP
 spokesman John Curry said.
 The company was starting
 to collect and analyze data
 on how much oil might be
 in the reservoir when the rig
 exploded April 20, he said.

BP's uncertainty statement
 is reasonable, given they
 only had drilled one well,
 according to Doug Rader,

an ocean scientist with the
 Environmental Defense Fund.
 Two relief wells stopped
 the world's worst peacetime
 spill, from a Mexican rig
 called Ixtoc 1 that dumped
 140 million gallons off the
 Yucatan Peninsula. That
 plug took nearly 10 months
 beginning in the summer of
 1979. Drilling technology has
 vastly improved since then,
 however.

So far, the Gulf oil spill has
 leaked between 19.7 million
 gallons and 43 million gallons,
 according to government
 estimates.

In the meantime, BP is turning
 to another risky procedure
 federal officials acknowledge
 will likely, at least temporarily,
 cause 20 percent more oil —
 at least 100,000 gallons a day
 — to add to the gusher.

Using robot submarines, BP
 plans to cut away the riser
 pipe this week and place a
 cap-like containment valve
 over the blowout preventer.
 On Monday, live video feeds
 showed robot submarines
 moving equipment around
 and using a circular saw-like
 device to cut small pipes at the
 bottom of the Gulf.

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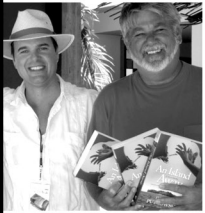
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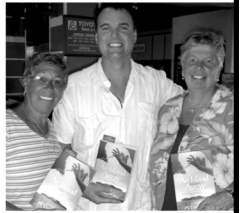
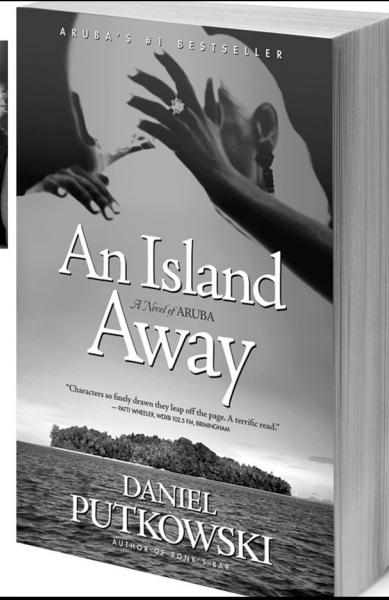
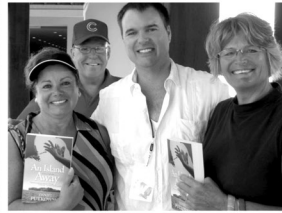
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Memorial Day

Continued from front page

In Afghanistan, U.S.-led NATO forces launched airstrikes against Taliban insurgents who had forced government forces to abandon a district in Nuristan, a remote province on the Pakistan border. NATO also said it killed one of the Taliban's top two commanders in the insurgent stronghold of Kandahar in a separate airstrike.

At the sprawling Bagram Air Field, the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan, about 400 soldiers in camouflage uniforms and brown combat boots stood at attention for a moment's silence as Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the commander of some 94,000 U.S. troops in the country, led the ceremony.

A bugler played taps and a color guard displayed the U.S. flag and the flags of units serving in eastern Afghanistan where the base is located, about 30 miles north of Kabul.

A steel construction beam from the World Trade Center destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks was unveiled, with the inscription "WTC 9 11 01". The beam was donated by citizens' group the Sons and Daughters of America of Breezy Point, a suburb in Queens, New York, where 29 victims of the Sept. 11 attacks lived, according to a letter read out at the ceremony.

McChrystal praised the soldiers for their courage given the likelihood that they will lose more friends during their tours. "The fact that people are willing to stand up and do what's difficult, they're willing to stand up and do what's frightening, and they're willing to stand up and do what often costs, really is the measure of not just a person, but of a people," McChrystal said.

At Bagram, Maj. John Sherwood, 38, of San Antonio, said Memorial Day is more

somber in Afghanistan than in the U.S., as people remember friends who died.

"I think about a few people I knew, mostly back in Iraq," said Sherwood, of the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Maj. Sonya Powell, 42, of Cincinnati, said she thought of two people: her executive officer who was killed in an aircraft crash in October, and her 4-year-old son, who is waiting for her to come home.

"It's very hard, but you don't dwell on it," said Powell, of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade. "You come here, you do your mission, and you pray." McChrystal also visited an Afghan military unit for a remembrance ceremony for 39 Afghan commandos who have died since the unit's inception in 2006 — a reminder of Afghan lives lost as well.

In the Iraqi capital, hundreds of American troops gathered to remember their fallen comrades in one of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein's former palaces in Baghdad that is now part of the U.S. military's Camp Victory.

Troops placed a wreath at the foot of a towering American flag inside the palace, and a brass band played the American national anthem. Troops enjoyed cake after the ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Robert W. Cone, deputy commanding general for U.S. forces in Iraq, urged his countrymen to "take time today to think about those who made their freedom possible."

Separate attacks in Iraq killed four people — including a prominent leader of anti-insurgent forces — and wounded several others, police and hospital officials said Monday.

In Afghanistan, NATO aircraft pounded Taliban positions in Nuristan's Barg-e-Matal district after fighters — many of whom traveled from Pakistan, Afghan officials said — routed government forces there last

week in a major assault.

Taliban strength has grown in Nuristan since U.S. troops abandoned an outpost where eight American soldiers were killed in a fierce attack last October.

NATO said an airstrike in Panjwai district on Sunday killed Haji Amir, who it called one of the Taliban's top two leaders in Kandahar province, where coalition troops are laying the groundwork for a major operation. Amir escaped from prison two years ago and had been directing Taliban attacks in Kandahar from Pakistan until April, when he returned to Afghanistan, NATO said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi denied any militants had been killed by NATO forces in Panjwai in recent days, and said he had never heard of Haji Amir. NATO reported the death of another service member, taking a tally by The Associated Press to 50 for May — the deadliest month since February when American, NATO and Afghan forces seized the Taliban stronghold of Marjah in Helmand province. NATO did not identify the service member, but Britain's Defense Ministry said Monday that one of its marines had been killed in an explosion in Helmand.

May is already the deadliest month of 2010 for U.S. troops, with 33 deaths, and also brought



the grim milestone of America's 1,000th military death in the Afghan war since it began in 2001.

McChrystal, who is also NATO commander in Afghanistan, said Sunday that while Tehran has generally assisted the Afghan government in fighting the insurgents, there was clear evidence that some Taliban were being trained in Iran, Afghanistan's western neighbor. In Paktia province, a civilian contractor's helicopter crash-landed Sunday, killing one civilian on the ground and slightly injuring three crew members, NATO said, adding there were no reports of insurgent involvement. In the north, seven police were

killed in a roadside bomb attack Sunday in Badakhshan, local officials said.

In nearby Kunduz, three militants were killed and seven wounded when they attacked a police checkpoint on Sunday.

And eight Afghan police were wounded Sunday by a suicide bombing at a checkpoint in Khost.

The AP's casualty figures are based on Defense Department reports of deaths as a direct result of the Afghan conflict, including personnel assigned to units in Afghanistan, Pakistan or Uzbekistan. Non-U.S. deaths are based on statements by governments with forces in the coalition.



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Israeli raid

Continued from front page

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu abruptly canceled a planned meeting with President Barack Obama in Washington to rush home. The global reaction appeared likely to increase pressure to end the embargo that has plunged Gaza's 1.5 million residents deeper into poverty.

Most of the information about what happened on the single ship where violence broke out came from Israel, which cut off all communication to and from the activists and provided testimony and video evidence that its soldiers came under attack by activists armed with metal rods, knives, slingshots and two pistols snatched from the troops.

Passengers reached at an Israeli hospital and journalists aboard the ship accused the soldiers of using excessive force. One passenger, who identified himself as American, spoke briefly with reporters.

"I'm not violent. What I can tell you is that there are bruises all over my body. They won't let me show them to you," he said before he was pushed away by a security escort.

A soldier identified only as a sergeant told reporters at a military briefing that the activists on board "were armed with knives, scissors, pepper spray and guns." He said he was armed only with a paintball rifle. "It was a civilian paintball gun that any 12-year-old can play with," he said. "I saw my friends on the deck spitting blood."

The high-seas confrontation was a nightmare scenario for Israel, which insisted its soldiers were simply unprepared for what awaited them on the Mavi Marmara, the ship carrying 600 of the 700 activists headed for Gaza. Instead of carrying their regular automatic rifles, the Israelis said they went in with non-lethal paintball guns and pistols they never expected to use.

Israel intercepted the six ships carrying some 10,000 tons of aid for the isolated seaside territory, which has been blockaded



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks after his meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada, Monday May 31, 2010.

Associated Press

by Israel for three years, with Egypt's cooperation. The Israeli government had urged the flotilla not to try to breach the blockade before the ships set sail from waters off Cyprus on Sunday and offered to take some aid in for them.

Israel has allowed ships through five times, but has blocked them from entering Gaza waters since a three-week military offensive against Gaza's Hamas rulers in January 2009.

Key regional ally Turkey withdrew its ambassador on Monday, the U.N. Security Council held an emergency session, the British foreign secretary demanded an end to the blockade of Gaza, and Jordan called Israel's raid a "heinous crime."

An al-Jazeera journalist delivering a report before Israel cut communications said Israel fired at the vessel before boarding it. In one web posting, a Turkish television reporter on the boat cried out, "These savages are killing people here, please help" — a broadcast that ended with a voice shouting in Hebrew, "Everybody shut up!"

The military said naval commandos descending from

a helicopter onto the deck of a Turkish-flagged ship were assaulted by armed activists. Military footage showed activists swarming around the commandos as they rappelled from a helicopter one by one, hitting them with sticks until they fell to the deck, throwing one off the ship and hurling what the military said was a firebomb.

Speaking alongside the Canadian prime minister, Netanyahu expressed "regret" for the loss of life but said the soldiers "had to defend themselves, defend their lives, or they would have been killed."

Activists said Israeli naval commandos stormed the ships after ordering them to stop in international waters, about 80 miles from Gaza's coast.

A spokeswoman for the Free Gaza movement, which organized the flotilla, said the group's goal — beyond just bringing supplies to the impoverished territory — was to shatter the blockade.

"What we're trying to do is open a sea lane between Gaza and the rest of the world," Greta Berlin said in Cyprus. "We're not trying to be a humanitarian mission. We're trying to say to the world, 'You have no right to imprison a

million and a half Palestinians.'" Israel's international image had already taken a beating from allegations that it committed war crimes during its 2008-2009 winter war in Gaza, and from widespread global opposition to the blockade. Hamas was also accused of rights violations in that conflict.

Relations with Turkey, a key supporter of the aid flotilla but also until recently Israel's staunchest ally in the Muslim world, were badly damaged by Monday's events, possibly irreparably. Ankara announced it would recall its ambassador and call off all military exercises with Israel. Around 10,000 Turks marched in protest.

At the U.N., Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called the raid "murder conducted by a state" and demanded an immediate Israeli apology, international legal action and an end to the blockade.

The bloody showdown came at a sensitive time for Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. Netanyahu had hoped to receive a high-profile expression of support from Obama after months of strained relations over Israeli settlement construction.

Obama voiced "deep regret," over the raids, and the White House said he and Netanyahu agreed by phone to reschedule White House talks. The U.S. recently began mediating indirect peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians following a 17-month breakdown in contacts. Israel's immediate concern on Monday was what to do about the boats and their passengers. It ferried the wounded to hospitals by helicopter and towed the six ships to port, giving each of the activists a choice of deportation or detention.

By late Monday, about 150 of the activists — most from Turkey — had been taken off the boats, Israeli Interior Ministry spokeswoman Sabine Haddad said, adding the process would continue into Tuesday. She said about 30 had agreed to be deported, and the rest would be detained.

A commando who spoke to reporters on a naval vessel off the coast, identified only as "A," said he and his comrades were taken off guard by a group of Arabic-speaking men when they rappelled onto the deck. He said some of the soldiers were stripped of their helmets and their pistols and some had jumped overboard to escape the violence.

A high-ranking naval official displayed a box confiscated from the boat containing switchblades, slingshots, metal balls and metal bats.

Turkey's NTV network showed activists beating one commando with sticks as he landed on deck. Dr. Arnon Afek, deputy director of Chaim Sheba Medical Center outside Tel Aviv, said two commandos were brought in with gunshot wounds. Another had serious head wounds, Afek added.

At Barzilai hospital in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon, a few activists trickled in under military escort, claiming they had been beaten during the assault. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the Israeli "massacre" and declared three days of mourning across the West Bank.

German president quits over military remarks

GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press Writer

BERLIN (AP) — President Horst Koehler stunned Germans by resigning Monday after being criticized for appearing to link military deployments abroad with the country's economic interests — creating a new headache for Chancellor Angela Merkel. The resignation, effective immediately, came a year into Koehler's second term as the largely ceremonial head of state. Merkel's center-right alliance installed the former International Monetary Fund boss as president in 2004, and his departure is a symbolic blow.

The speaker of parliament's upper house — Bremen Mayor Jens Boehrsen, a member of the opposition Social Democrats — temporarily takes over presidential duties, largely signing legislation into law.

A new president must be elected within 30 days. German politicians now have to figure out quickly who should replace Koehler even as they are preoccupied with trying to make budget cuts amid Europe's government debt crisis.

"I was surprised by his phone call and I tried to talk him around, but unfortunately I didn't succeed," Merkel said.

"I think people in Germany will be very sad about this resignation."

She said that "with his wide international experience, he was an important counselor, particularly in the economic financial crisis — and so of course I will miss that advice in future."

The resignation comes on top of a much-criticized start for Merkel's second-term government, an embarrassing state election loss in May, the euro debt crisis — complete with two unpopular rescue packages — and a prominent conservative state governor's resignation.

"It is a difficult situation for Merkel," said Gero Neugebauer, a political scientist at Berlin's Free University. "It is not clear whether she will be able to push through her own candidate."

The president is chosen by a special assembly of lower-house lawmakers and representatives of Germany's 16 states, in which the center-right is expected to have a majority. Merkel gave no hints on a possible successor. The post is supposed to be above the political fray, traditionally functioning as the nation's moral voice.

Koehler, a member of Merkel's Christian Democrats, cited a

week of criticism over a radio interview he gave following a visit to German troops in Afghanistan.

In that broadcast, he said for a country with Germany's dependency on exports, military deployments could be "necessary ... in order to defend our interests, for example free trade routes."

That was taken by many as relating to Germany's unpopular mission in Afghanistan, although his office later said he was referring to anti-piracy patrols off the coast of Somalia.

Germans are often uneasy about deployments abroad, given the country's militaristic past, and the mission in Afghanistan makes many particularly uncomfortable.

Opposition politicians had urged Koehler, 67, to take back the remarks and accused him of damaging public acceptance of German military missions abroad.

"I regret that my comments in an important and difficult question for our nation were able to lead to misunderstandings," a strained-looking Koehler told reporters at the president's Bellevue palace.

Koehler complained that some critics suggested he supported "missions that are not covered by the constitution."



German President Horst Koehler announces his resignation following criticism about remarks he made on German military deployments abroad at Bellevue Palace in Berlin, on Monday, May 31, 2010. In a surprise announcement, German President Horst Koehler resigned Monday after being criticized for remarks in which he appeared to link military deployments abroad with the country's economic interests.

Associated Press

"This criticism lacks any basis," Koehler said in a statement delivered alongside his wife, Eva Luise. "It also is lacking in the necessary respect for the presidential office."

He added "it was an honor to serve Germany as federal president" then walked off without taking questions.

Koehler positioned himself as an outsider to the political elite and long enjoyed high popularity ratings. He occasionally refused to sign bills into law due to constitutional concerns and didn't always make himself popular with the government. Last year, he described financial markets as a "monster" that hadn't yet

been tamed.

The controversy over his military remarks had appeared to be petering out.

Sigmar Gabriel, the opposition Social Democrats' leader, suggested Koehler had felt he wasn't getting enough support from his own center-right colleagues. Koehler's comments on the military were "unfortunate" but no reason to quit, he said.

U.S. Ambassador Philip Murphy voiced "deep regret." Frankfurt's DAX stock index appeared unaffected, and was up nearly 0.6 percent in afternoon trading.

One of Koehler's predecessors, Heinrich Lübke, stepped down 10 weeks before his term ended in 1969.

Rome unveils plan to transform into green capital

ROME (AP) — Rome's mayor unveiled a master plan Monday to transform the eternal city into a green, low-carbon, post-petroleum capital — aimed in part at bolstering Rome's 2020 Olympic bid.

Mayor Gianni Alemanno presented the proposal alongside U.S. economist Jeremy Rifkin, who has been advising the EU on a long-term economic sustainability plan to address the global economic crisis, energy security and climate change.

The plan calls for Rome to invest around \$615 million over the next 20 years in new industries and businesses, creating what city officials claim

will result in thousands of new jobs and making the capital independent energetically.

"It's not just an energy plan, but also an environmental, urban and economic one," Alemanno told a news conference. "It's a complete plan to develop the city."

It envisages three main areas of transformation: turning the congested historic center into a greener, pedestrian friendly space; developing the commercial/industrial "ring" around the capital; and improving the agricultural areas outside the city to reduce its carbon imprint.

Rifkin said the aim was to create a durable

economic vision, saying the aim was a "democratization of energy."

Rome is one of several Italian cities that have expressed an interest in bidding for the 2020 Summer Olympics, including Venice, Palermo and Bari.

The capital already has a number of venues built — it hosted the games in 1960 and lost out to Athens in 2004 — but has problems with traffic, transportation links and housing for what would be a huge influx of visitors.

The International Olympic Committee will select the host in 2013.

No shelter from the storm for Haiti quake victims

BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A hurricane season predicted to be one of the wettest on record opens Tuesday in the Caribbean, where hundreds of thousands of Haitian earthquake victims have only tarps or fraying tents to protect them in a major storm.

The Haitian government, which had five months to prepare, says it's still working on emergency and evacuation plans. But it is unclear where people will go with many churches, schools and other potential shelters toppled by the quake.

Since the Jan. 12 earthquake killed up to 300,000 people and left more than 1.5 million homeless, there has been little progress on clearing rubble so people can return to their neighborhoods or building sturdier shelters.

Dr. Jean Pape, one of the country's most prominent public health experts, estimates that only 1 percent of the masses stuck in dangerous flood zones have been relocated.

"There's no give here. Time is just running out," said Mark L. Schneider, senior vice president of the International Crisis Group. "There's no question that large numbers, tens of thousands, are going to be in situations of misery when the rains come."



People walk inside a camp for earthquake displaced people after a rain in Port-au-Prince, Friday, May 28, 2010. A hurricane season predicted to be one of the wettest on record opens officially on June 1st in the Caribbean, where hundreds of thousands of Haitian earthquake victims have only tarps or fraying tents to protect them in a major storm.

Associated Press

Already, the moderate spring rains that drench Port-au-Prince almost daily leave camp residents up to their knees in putrid water. Claudia Toussaint, a 24-year-old camped near a golf course, dug a shallow channel in the dirt under her tarp in a futile effort to keep water away from her mattress.

"When it rains, we don't have anywhere to go, we don't have

anywhere to sleep," she said. "We just get soaked."

The problem goes beyond more misery in about 1,200 temporary camps. Vast numbers of people are exposed to disease-carrying mosquitoes. Serious flooding could cause mass casualties even with thousands of aid workers and U.N. peacekeepers present.

The U.S. National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration has predicted as many as 23 named tropical storms, which would make this season one of the more active on record. The quake has forced Haiti to update its storm contingency plans, said Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, including positioning emergency food and equipment.

A response team has been set up to deal with rain emergencies in camps.

"We don't need a hurricane to have problems in Haiti, we just need three or four days of continuous rain to have serious problems," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

But Bellerive couldn't say how the plans are being updated. And he said the country's condition remains "fragile," even though aid groups and government officials have said since the quake that flooding is a major looming disaster.

The Atlantic storm season always poses a risk in mountainous Haiti. Tropical Storm Jeanne killed nearly 3,000 people in 2004, and a series of 2008 storms killed 800 — mostly in the country's central region north of Port-au-Prince.

The capital city rarely gets a direct hit; it is protected by the mountains that separate Haiti from the Dominican Republic. But even modest storms are deadly in this deforested nation where entire cities are routinely plunged under water.

The international community and private aid groups have pledged or delivered \$3.1 billion to help Haiti after the earthquake and are promising nearly \$10 billion more for reconstruction.

But so far, the government has relocated only about 7,000 vulnerable people to two safer camps.

The relocation is slow because the crippled government doesn't have enough money to complete a job that includes not just setting up new tents, but providing work, schools and services.

"You can't just move people to a new location and say 'take care of your life,'" said Pape, director of the GHESKIO clinic.

The Salvation Army has started building two-room shelters for 600 families in the southern town of Jacmel despite bureaucratic delays in getting the material through Haiti's ports.

The cement-secured wooden supports are designed to withstand winds of up to 30 mph, and the raised wooden floors to prevent Haitians from risking disease by using water flowing through their homes for hygiene and cooking. They expect to complete the structures within a month using Haitian labor.

Protesters have criticized President Rene Preval for a lack of progress in reconstruction. Schneider says all involved need to move faster.

"It's not that people are doing things that are wrong," he said. "It's that people need to do the things that they are doing faster." Magdaline Oscar lives with her husband and 6-year-old son in a trash-strewn road that leads to the capital's main garbage dump. She showed visitors the murky water that pools under her tent and splashes through its torn sides. During storms, they flee to a neighbor's shelter, though many of the other tents in their encampment are also now damaged after five months of use.

"The wind and the water is destroying them," said the 26-year-old. "I don't think it will last much longer."

Elsewhere, people are taking a do-it-yourself approach — adding corrugated steel and plywood to homes first constructed from a few bed sheets and plastic tarps. Leon Louis was confident about his prospects as he set up a shanty in the Champs de Mars, the capital's central plaza.

"The rain might fall, but we'll be in a stable place," Louis said.

Lawyers oppose Naomi Campbell diamond testimony

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Former Liberian President Charles Taylor's defense lawyers on Monday opposed a request by prosecutors at his war crimes trial to call supermodel Naomi Campbell as a witness, branding the move "a publicity stunt."

Prosecutors earlier this month filed a motion seeking to have Campbell subpoenaed to testify about claims Taylor gave her "blood diamonds" at a reception in South Africa in 1997.

But Taylor's lawyers said the evidence was "tangential to the real issues" against Taylor and said prosecutors were

trying to introduce it too late in the trial — 15 months after they closed their case.

"For the prosecution to present such inferential evidence at this advanced stage, as part of an obvious publicity stunt, would bring the administration of justice into serious disrepute," Taylor's British lawyer Courtenay Griffiths wrote to judges.

According to the prosecution motion seeking a subpoena, Campbell told prosecutors through her lawyer she does not want to get involved in the case and is concerned for her safety.

Prosecutors want Campbell



to testify about Taylor's alleged gift of diamonds along with actress Mia Farrow and another witness, Carole White, who were both at the same reception in South Africa. In a written statement to the court, Farrow said Campbell told her that two or three men woke her up and "presented her with a large diamond which they said was from Charles Taylor."



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Tropical Storm Agatha kills 142 in Central America

JUAN CARLOS LLORCA
Associated Press Writer

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Flooding and landslides from the season's first tropical storm have killed at least 142 people and left thousands homeless in Central America, officials said Monday.

Dozens of people are still missing and emergency crews are struggling to reach isolated communities cut off by washed-out roads and collapsed bridges caused by Tropical Storm Agatha.

The sun emerged Monday in hardest-hit Guatemala, where officials reported 118 dead and 53 missing. In the department of Chimaltenango — a province west of Guatemala City — landslides buried dozens of rural Indian communities and killed at least 60 people, Gov. Erick de Leon said.

"The department has collapsed," de Leon said. "There are a lot of dead people. The roads are blocked. The shelters are overflowing. We need water, food, clothes, blankets — but

above all, money."

In the tiny village of Parajbei, a slide smothered three homes and killed 11 people. "It was raining really hard and there was a huge noise," said Vicente Azcay, 56, who ran outside and saw that a hill had crumbled. "Now everyone is afraid that the same will happen to their homes."

Volunteers from nearby villages worked nonstop since Sunday to recover the bodies in Parajbei, and on Monday they found the last two: brothers, 4 and 8 years old, who were buried under tons of dirt, rocks and trees. As a thank-you, rescuers got a plate of rice and beans from the mayor of nearby Santa Apolonia.

"It's a small thing, but it comes from the heart," Tulio Nunez told them through a translator.

Nunez said he worried about the well-being of survivors in the area because the landslides blocked roads and burst water pipes.

"They don't have anything to drink," he said.

In all some 110,000 people were evacuated in Guatemala.

Thousands more have fled their homes in neighboring Honduras, where the death toll rose to 15 even as meteorologists predicted three more days of rain.

Two dams near the capital of Tegucigalpa overflowed into a nearby river, and officials warned people to stay away from swollen waterways.

"The risk is enormous," Mayor Ricardo Alvarez said. In El Salvador, at least 179 landslides have been reported and 11,000 people were evacuated. The death toll was nine, President Mauricio Funes said.

About 95 percent of the country's roads were affected by landslides, but most remain open, Transportation Minister Gerson Martinez said.

The Lempa River, which flows to the Pacific, topped its banks and flooded at least 20 villages, affecting some 6,000 people, said Jorge Melendez, director of the Civil Protection Agency.



Guatemalan residents on the border between El Salvador and Guatemala, watch the damage on the Arce bridge in La Hachadura, El Salvador, Sunday, May 30, 2010. The death toll in Central America from landslides and flooding triggered by the year's first tropical storm continued to rise as authorities struggled to clear roads of debris and reach cut-off communities. Associated Press

Officials warned that the Acelhuate River, which cuts through San Salvador, was running at dangerously high levels and threatened to spill over into the capital's streets. Agatha made landfall near the Guatemala-Mexico border Saturday as a tropical storm with winds up to 45 mph. It dissipated the following day over the mountains of western Guatemala.

The rising death toll is reminding nervous residents of Hurricane Mitch, which hovered over Central

America for days in 1998, causing flooding and mudslides that killed nearly 11,000 people and left more than 8,000 missing and unaccounted for.

Rescue efforts in Guatemala have been complicated by a volcanic eruption Thursday near the capital that blanketed parts of the area with ash and closed the country's main airport. Officials are now allowing helicopters and propeller planes to take off, but commercial flights remain grounded.

Fans gather to remember Ronnie James Dio



LOS ANGELES — The mammoth service for fiery frontman Ronnie James Dio was more akin to a spirited rock concert than a dreary funeral.

With chants of “Dio, Dio, Dio,” headbangers were loud and proud Sunday as they paid tribute to the late metal legend, who died from stomach cancer May 16 at age 67.

More than 1,200 fans commemorated Dio inside Forest Lawn Memorial Park’s Hall of Liberty. Hundreds more gathered in the scorching heat outside the auditorium to watch monitors of the proceedings, which featured performances from some of Dio’s rocker friends, including Glenn Hughes of Deep Purple, Geoff Tate of Queensryche and Paul Shortino of Quiet Riot.

“He touched all of us with his music and his message and his magic,” said David Feinstein, Dio’s cousin and Elf bandmate. “I know that Ronnie truly loved all of you. He had a great appreciation for your loyalty. I’m talking about all you out there, all the fans.”

Those gathered remembered the feisty vocalist from such bands as Elf, Rainbow, Black Sabbath and the self-titled Dio as a passionate performer who was gracious on and off stage.

Many recalled Dio’s continued support over the years of Children of the Night, the teenage prostitution

rehabilitation organization where his wife, Wendy, serves as chairman.

Dio revealed last summer that he was suffering from stomach cancer shortly after wrapping up a tour in Atlantic City, N.J., with the latest incarnation of Black Sabbath under the name Heaven and Hell.

Dio’s son, Dan Padavona, cautioned the memorial crowd to be screened regularly by a doctor and take care of themselves, something he said his father did not do.

“I beg you not to make the same mistake my dad made,” said Padavona. “For dad, the show always had to go on. He ignored the warning signs for years, and all along the cancer was growing and mutating from something that was probably easily defeatable into a monster which even Dio couldn’t slay.”

A few members of the Westboro Baptist Church demonstrated outside of the park’s gates as hundreds of fans arrived to remember Dio, who made the “devil horns”

hand gesture he learned from his Italian grandmother a heavy metal signature.

Members of the fundamentalist church said they opposed Dio because they believed he worshipped Satan.

Several musician friends of Dio celebrated the rocker by performing tunes that featured Dio’s signature howl.

Scott Warren of Heaven and Hell began the memorial with an arrangement of Dio’s “This is Your Life” on piano. John Payne of Asia crooned Black Sabbath’s “Heaven and Hell.” Joey Belladonna of Anthrax wailed Rainbow’s “Man On The Silver Mountain.”

“He had that magic,” remembered Willie Fyfe, Dio’s longtime personal assistant. “He always called it magic. Once he had a crowd in his hands, that’s where they stayed until it was time to go, then he’d give them back, and walk off and do his thing. Bless him. He’s still doing that now, and the guy is in a coffin.”

Temptations singer Ali-Ollie Woodson dies at 58

DETROIT — Ali-Ollie Woodson, who led the legendary Motown quintet The Temptations in the 1980s and ‘90s and helped restore them to their hit-making glory with songs including “Treat Her Like A Lady,” has died, a friend said. He was 58.

Woodson died Sunday in southern California after battling cancer, Motown Alumni Association President Billy Wilson said. Wilson said Woodson’s wife, Juanita, told him about the death Sunday.

Woodson was not an original member of the group, which had several lineup changes since it started in the 1960s. But he played an integral part in keeping the Temptations from becoming just nostalgia act.

By the early 1980s, the

Temptations were no longer posting hit after hit like they did in the 1960s and ‘70s with classics such as “Papa Was a Rolling Stone,” “My Girl,” and “I Wish It Would Rain.”

The group had lost original members, and Woodson was charged with replacing Dennis Edwards, whose passionate voice defined the group during the 1970s.

Woodson’s voice, though similar to Edwards’ with its fiery tone, was distinct in itself, and helped the group notch the R&B hits “Treat Her Like A Lady,” “Sail Away,” and “Lady Soul,” from 1984 to 1986.

“He had this swagger about himself. He was cool. He had a coolness about himself that was really very inviting,” said Wilson. He said he first met Woodson in 1980 before

Woodson joined the group and that he last spoke with his friend about two weeks ago.

Despite his fame, Woodson was “always a gentleman and always polite and kind to everybody. If we ever asked him to do anything, he never said, ‘well, it’s going to cost you.’ He’d always say, ‘yeah, let’s go,’” said Wilson, who founded the Detroit-based Motown association in the mid-1990s.

“He was just a star performer. Wonderful person. Wonderful, wonderful person. He was very kind.” Messages were left Monday for a producer and a manager who worked with Woodson. A recorded message at a phone number for his wife said the voice mailbox was full.



BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

China's Wen: global economy double-dip possible

TOKYO — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warned on Monday that global economic growth remained vulnerable to sovereign debt risks and the possibility of a second downturn, but said his own nation's growth remained on track.

Wen told an audience of Japanese business executives that it was too early for economies to consider exiting stimulus spending that has shored up growth since the global financial crisis hit in 2008. But he also warned that mounting government debt risks could frustrate full economic recovery. "Some people say the global economy has already recovered, and now we can consider exit mechanisms. I believe that this judgment is premature," Wen said in the speech, given on the second day of a three-day visit to Japan.

High joblessness in the United States and other economies, and sovereign debt risks laid bare by Greece's crisis could all drag down the global recovery and trigger a second dip in growth, Wen said.

"Some countries have experienced sovereign debt crises, for example Greece. Is this

kind of phenomenon over? Now it seems that it's not so simple and we must take a full measure of the difficulties," he said.

"Some people ask is there the possibility of a double dip in the world economy? I believe that we can't say with absolute certainty, and so we must undertake close observation and act to prevent a double dip," he said later.

"The world economy is stable and beginning to revive, but this revival is slow and there are many uncertainties and destabilizing factors."

Wen gave his blunt overview of the Chinese and world economy in a speech that he said was not from a written script. No script could be seen on the podium.

NO MENTION OF YUAN

But the Chinese leader stayed away from mentioning the yuan exchange rate, which many politicians and economists in the United States and elsewhere say is held artificially low and is exacerbating the global economic imbalances that Wen described.

Wen's cautious assessment of China's trade outlook suggested that he could see dangers in quickly moving to lift the value

of the yuan, which would make the country's exports relatively more costly.

China's exports appeared to have bounced back in the first quarter, but that was compared to a low base last year, said Wen. China recorded a \$1.7 billion trade surplus last month, defying expectations of a second straight deficit after March's \$7.2 billion shortfall.

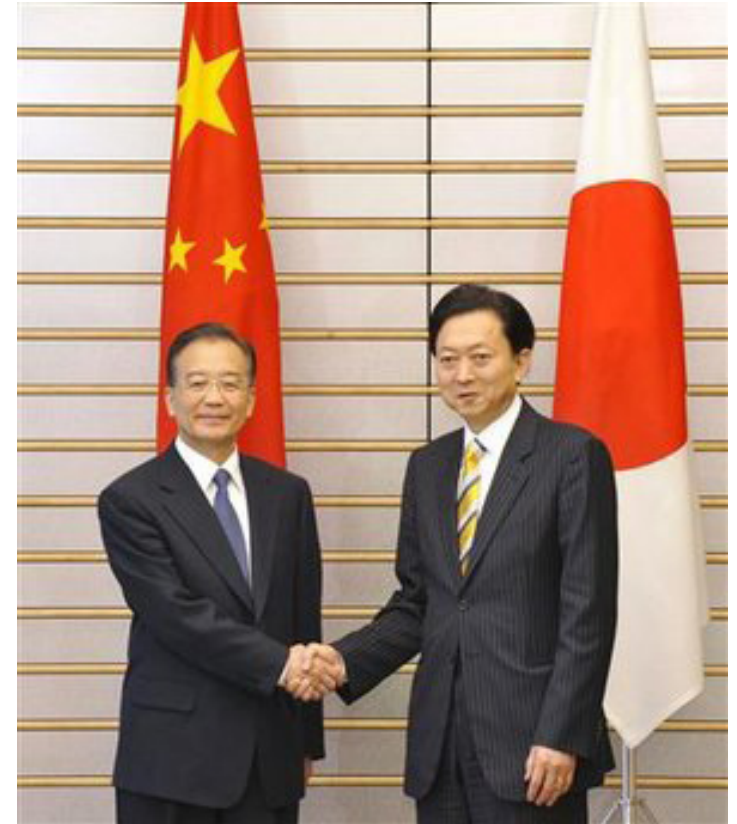
"For (Chinese) external trade to revive to pre-financial crisis levels needs time and is a difficult process," he said.

Those uncertainties make it all the more important for China and other economies to refrain from exiting stimulus spending policies launched to counter the financial crisis, said Wen.

"In these circumstances, all countries must coordinate in unity and strengthen policy support for the economy. There cannot be the least relaxation," he said.

"To ensure that the (Chinese) economy continues growing in a steady, relatively fast pace, we must maintain a certain level of intensity in economic stimulus," he said.

China's economic growth reached 11.9 percent year-on-



year in the first quarter.

While China ploughs ahead with expansionary fiscal policies, however, it will also keep a close eye on inflationary pressures that have risen in recent months, Wen said.

China's consumer price index

(CPI) rose 2.8 percent in April from a year earlier, nudging close to the target of keeping it within about 3 percent across the year, he noted.

"Achieving this task is an important goal for this year," he said.

ECB warns of more bank loan losses

FRANKFURT/MADRID (Reuters) — The European Central Bank warned on Monday that euro zone banks face up to 195 billion euros in a "second wave" of potential loan losses over the next 18 months due to the financial crisis, and disclosed it had increased purchases of euro zone government bonds.

As the euro recouped losses but remained on the back foot after a cut in Spain's credit rating and China warned that the global economy remained vulnerable to sovereign debt risks, Spain assured investors it would reform its rigid labor market even if employers and trade unions cannot agree. The ECB said euro zone banks would need to make provisions for further losses this year of 90 billion euros, and 105 billion in 2011, on top of some 238 billion euros in bad debts written off by the end of 2009. That was the first time it has given an estimate for next year.

Although total write-downs from bad loans and securities between 2007 and the end of 2010 were

likely to be lower than previously expected, the ECB said in its latest Financial Stability Report, write-downs this year and next year would be still larger if heightened sovereign debt risk and the impact of government belt-tightening dragged down economic growth.

The ECB began buying up mostly Greek, Portuguese and Spanish bonds on May 3 in a contentious move to calm debt markets and support an \$1 trillion stabilization package for the euro agreed by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

The central bank said in a statement it had settled 35 billion euros in bond purchases by May 28, up from 26.5 billion a week earlier. It did not detail the nationality of the debt but ECB officials have said it is mostly from south European countries hardest hit by financial market turmoil.

The ECB acknowledged in its report that euro zone debt tensions may force it to delay a phasing-out of cheap lending operations designed to help

banks through the financial crisis.

After Lehman Brothers collapsed in September 2008, the ECB began offering euro zone banks unlimited, flat-rate loans in a bid to revive inter-bank lending and keep credit flowing to the real economy. ECB governing council member Axel Weber, president of Germany's powerful Bundesbank, urged a tight cap on the bond buying program and said the extraordinary steps taken to ease the euro zone debt crisis posed a risk to price stability. "The purchases of government bonds in the secondary market should not overshoot a tightly-capped limit," Weber said in a speech prepared for delivery in Mainz, Germany. He did not suggest a figure.

Spain, the fourth-largest euro zone economy, saw its credit rating downgraded a notch by Fitch Ratings agency from the maximum AAA to AA+ late on Friday after a 15 billion euro austerity program squeaked through parliament by a single vote.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Kurt Busch wins Coca-Cola 600 to sweep Charlotte

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CONCORD, North Carolina (AP) — Kurt Busch used an extra fast final pit stop to chase down the leaders and give team owner Roger Penske a coveted Memorial Day weekend victory.

That the win came in the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and not at his beloved Indianapolis Motor Speedway, probably didn't matter to Penske.

After all, it came at the expense of Chip Ganassi, Penske's top rival in open-wheel racing and the winning car owner of the Indianapolis 500 earlier Sunday.

"Roger, this one is for you,"

Busch said. "The first person I think about is Roger Penske. This is something that will be front and center in Roger's trophy case that I was happy to deliver."

Busch, who led 252 of the 400 laps, and Ganassi driver Jamie McMurray were the class of the field at the end of NASCAR's longest race of the season, and McMurray was hoping to give Ganassi a sweep of the two prestigious Memorial Day weekend races. Earlier Sunday, Dario Franchitti won in Indianapolis and, after the celebration, Ganassi flew to North Carolina to catch the second half of the NASCAR race.

He arrived in time to see



Kurt Busch does a burnout after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series' Coca-Cola 600 auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., Sunday, May 30, 2010. Associated Press

Ethiopian men finish 1-2-3 in Bolder Boulder

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

BOULDER, Colorado (AP) — Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia has won the men's Bolder Boulder 10-kilometer race, crossing the finish line hand-in-hand with fellow countrymen Tilahun Regassa and Tadesse Tola.

The trio broke away from two Kenyans in the third mile Monday and entered Folsom Field hand-in-hand. Expecting a sprint to the finish, the crowd of 50,000 roared ever louder when it became apparent the Ethiopians instead would cross the tape together.

Desisa finished in 29 minutes, 16.93 seconds, officially 0.03 seconds ahead of 2009 champion Regassa and 0.15 seconds in front of Tola.

"We decided if no Kenya and if we are three, we finish together," Desisa said.

As race officials attempted to separate them just past the finish line into first, second and third place, the three runners adamantly refused to be sorted into any order.

"We didn't even try to race



From left, television show celebrity Dr. Mehmet Oz, cheers as Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa, Tilahun Regassa and Tadesse Tola finish together to win the men's elite title in the 32nd annual running of the Bolder Boulder 10-kilometer road race through the streets of Boulder, Colo., on Monday, May 31, 2010. Desisa was named as the winner of the race. Associated Press

each other," said Regassa, the 2009 champion. "We tried to go together."

Desisa earned \$3,750 for finishing first, Regassa \$2,750 for securing second and Tola \$2,250 for taking third.

Unable to officially share the win, they vowed to share the winnings.

"We decided to equally divide

the money," Regassa said. "That's the plan."

One of them will come up a penny shy of the others' \$2,916.67.

They'll also get a \$15,000 check to share for winning the International Team Challenge. "We were very happy," Regassa said.

McMurray, the Daytona 500 winner, work his Chevrolet through the field and take over the lead from Busch.

But a late caution for a Marcos Ambrose crash with 24 laps to go took it out of McMurray's hands. He led most of the leaders down pit road, but was beaten back onto the track by Busch and Matt Kenseth. Jeff Gordon was the first of three cars not to pit, and restarted as the leader with 19 laps remaining.

Busch blew past the three lead cars and steadily pulled away from the pack. McMurray quickly moved into second, but ran out of time to run down Busch, who held on to sweep the May races at Charlotte. Busch won the \$1 million All-Star race last weekend.

"I thought about the Ganassi car behind me," Busch said in Victory Lane, "he wasn't getting by us."

Ganassi, who became the first owner to win the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500 in the same season, didn't seem to mind the defeat.

"It was a great race, Jamie did a great job," he smiled. "My old buddy Penske beat me tonight."

Kyle Busch rallied from a mid-race crash on pit road to finish third in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing. Mark Martin finished fourth — the highest finishing Hendrick Motorsports car — and defending race winner David Reutimann was fifth for Michael Waltrip Racing.

Gordon wound up sixth and was followed by Clint Bowyer and Paul Menard, who had the highest finishing Ford. Ryan Newman and Kenseth rounded out the top 10.

While Kurt Busch celebrated, his younger brother was getting an earful on pit road from a furious Jeff Burton.

Burton was eighth on the final restart, running right next to Kyle Busch, when contact between the two cars ruined any chance for a solid finish for Burton. He faded to 25th and angrily confronted Busch after the race.

"Kyle made it three-wide on the restart, trying to make something happen, which I don't have a problem with," Burton said. "So he runs into me and cuts my left-rear tire, then I have a problem with it. He's real aggressive. That's cool."

Continued on page 15

WNBA Roundup

Jackson leads Storm past Silver Stars 84-65

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Australian Lauren Jackson scored 19 of her 27 points in the first half as the Western conference leading Seattle Storm routed the San Antonio Silver Stars 84-56 on Sunday.

Leading by 22 points at halftime, the Storm scored the first 13 points in the third period, leading San Antonio to clear its bench six minutes into the second half.

Swin Cash scored 14 points for the Storm, who have five wins in six games.

Seattle outscored the Silver Stars 42-18 in the paint and limited San Antonio, which entered the game with the league's top field-goal percentage, to 32.7 percent shooting.

Roneeka Hodges came off the bench to score 12 points for the Silver Stars, who lost their second straight game, both at home. San Antonio's reserves outscored its starters 30-24.

Dream 101, Sparks 82

At Los Angeles, Angel McCoughtry scored 32 points and Iziane Castro Marques had a season-high 24 points as the Dream continued its unbeaten run to six games.

Sancho Lyttle added 19 points and Erika DeSouza had 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Dream, which remains the WNBA's only unbeaten team. Candace Parker had 33 points and 12 rebounds for the Sparks (1-4), who matched their start last year after five games, the team's worst ever. Tina Thompson added a season-best 26 points.

The Sparks, who led by nine points in the first five minutes, held a 52-51 lead when the Dream used a 12-4 surge to move ahead 63-56 with 2:59 left in the third quarter. Castro Marques scored six points and Lyttle had four.


Mystics 69, Sun 65

At Washington, Crystal Langhorne scored 17 points and equaled a career high with 16 rebounds as the Mystics withstood a late run in a win over the Sun.

Nakia Sanford added four of her 11 points in the final three minutes as the Mystics (4-3) maintained at least a three-point buffer throughout the late stages of the game.







San Antonio Silver Stars' Michelle Snow, left, and Seattle Storm's Lauren Jackson, right, go up for the ball during the tip-off for a WNBA basketball game Sunday, May 30, 2010, at the AT&T Center in San Antonio, Texas. The Storm won 84-56. Associated Press



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AL Roundup

Scherzer helps Tigers beat Athletics 10-2

DETROIT (AP) — Max Scherzer struck out 14 in 5 2-3 shutout innings hours after he was recalled from the minors, helping the Detroit Tigers beat the Oakland Athletics 10-2 on Sunday.

Scherzer (2-4) allowed two hits, walked four and hit a batter in his first game with Detroit since he was sent to Triple-A Toledo following an awful start. The right-hander fell just two strikeouts short of Mickey Lolich's team record despite being taken out in the sixth inning.

Scherzer was acquired from Arizona over the winter and went 1-4 with a 7.29 ERA in his first eight starts with the Tigers. He was only called back up because Armando Galarraga, Sunday's scheduled starter, pitched in relief on Friday and wasn't available.

Miguel Cabrera had four hits, including his 14th homer, and four RBIs for the Tigers, who finished with 15 hits. Joel

Zumaya pitched two scoreless innings for his first save.

Daric Barton hit a two-run homer for Oakland. Dallas Braden (4-5) allowed five runs and 11 hits in six innings. Angels 9, Mariners 7

At Anaheim, Howie Kendrick hit his second home run of the game with two outs and two on in the ninth inning, giving the Angels the win a day after Kendry Morales broke his leg celebrating a winning grand slam for Los Angeles.

Manager Mike Scioscia met with his team before the game to change the club's policy on home plate celebrations, and it was put to the test in short order. Kendrick had a clear path and touched home without a jump as his jubilant teammates ran on the field and kept a safe distance from the foul line before mobbing him.

Hideki Matsui hit a two-run homer in the first for Los Angeles. Fernando Rodney (4-0) pitched a hitless ninth for the victory.



Detroit Tigers starter Max Scherzer pitches against the Oakland Athletics in the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 30, 2010, in Detroit. Scherzer struck out a career-high 14 batters in 5 2-3 shutout innings. He fell two short of Mickey Lolich's team record set in 1969. The Tigers defeated the Athletics 10-2.
Associated Press

Eliezer Alfonzo had three hits, including his first homer of the season, and drove in four for Seattle. Closer David Aardsma (0-3) got the loss.

Twins 6, Rangers 3

At Minneapolis, Denard Span had two hits, an RBI and made a lunging catch while colliding with Orlando Hudson to end the game as the

Twins completed a rare three-game sweep over the Rangers. The Twins gathered around Hudson in center field and watched quietly while trainers attended to him. After several minutes, he got up and walked off under his own power.

Scott Baker (5-4) allowed three runs on eight hits in six innings for the Twins, who

recorded just their second sweep of the season. Jason Kubel added two hits and two RBIs.

Rangers starter Derek Holland (2-1) left with no outs in the second inning because of soreness in his left shoulder.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 1

At Toronto, Jose Bautista hit his major league-leading 16th homer, Ricky Romero threw a six-hitter and Toronto finished off the three-game sweep.

Alex Gonzalez and Lyle Overbay also had solo drives for the Blue Jays, who have a club-record 53 homers in May and a majors-best 88 overall.

Toronto, which also swept a series at Baltimore from April 9-11, recorded consecutive three-game sweeps of the Orioles for the first time since August 2001.

Romero (5-2) struck out seven and walked two in his second complete game of the season. The left-hander retired 15 of 18 after Nick Markakis' RBI single in the first inning.

Jeremy Guthrie (3-5) allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings to lose for the first time since May 3 against the New York Yankees. He had won his last three decisions.

Red Sox 8, Royals 1

At Boston, David Ortiz hit his 11th homer of the season and Jon Lester pitched seven strong innings, helping the Red Sox salvage a split of the four-game series.



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U.S. World Cup team arrives in South Africa

GERALD IMRAY,
AP Sports Writer
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The United States squad arrived in Johannesburg on Monday following a 17-hour flight, with visible security for the Americans' high-profile arrival ahead of the World Cup no different to that which greeted other teams in South Africa. Armed special task-force members, dressed in dark blue uniforms, surrounded the South African Airways plane at the O.R. Tambo airport as the players emerged on a cool, overcast afternoon. After leading his team off the plane, coach Bob Bradley immediately picked out the opening game against England, on June 12, as a chance to make an impression on the tournament.

"There has been a lot of attention on our first game with England," Bradley said. "It's a great opportunity for us. "But we certainly know that Slovenia and Algeria are excellent teams. It will be a tough group and we are looking forward to it. Plainclothes security officials, wearing earpieces and sunglasses, also patrolled the arrivals facility — set aside for World Cup teams — where the Americans cleared immigration. Bradley has already named his final the 23-man squad, 17 of whom play in Europe. Midfielders Landon Donovan and DaMarcus Beasley and defender Steve Cherundolo have earned their third World Cup trips, and were included alongside relative unknown

players Edson Buddle and Herculez Gomez — both strikers.

The country has a familiar feel for most of the U.S. squad, who enjoyed an impressive showing in the Confederations Cup in South Africa last year. Bradley's team reached the final of the competition and played at the grounds in Rustenburg and Pretoria and Johannesburg's Ellis Park — the same venues it visits in the group stages.

"We're very fortunate that we have had experience here," Bradley said to reporters on the airport tarmac. "The people here in South Africa have always treated us so well so in that regard, it's a comfortable feeling to be back for the World Cup.

"We are very excited... The travel went really well and the



USA soccer player Oguchi Onyewu, left, with teammates upon their arrival at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, Monday May 31, 2010. USA arrived for the upcoming World Cup tournament, which gets underway on June 11, 2010.

Associated Press

team is looking to get started with our work here."

Dressed in blue-and-red team tracksuits, the U.S. players then boarded a bus for the 25-minute drive up to their base at the Irene Country Lodge, a luxurious, rural-style hotel in a village between Johannesburg and the capital city Pretoria.

The lodge is billed as "a haven of peace and tranquility in the hub of South Africa's economic heartland".

It's where the U.S. team will acclimatize to the cool, early winter conditions ahead of a final warmup match against Australia on Saturday — which Bradley said would be a good way to finish.

"The final game against Australia is our last chance

to work on some things," Bradley said.

"I think the weather here is great for football. It's going to mean that the games are played at a good tempo. We have enough time between now and June 12 to acclimatize so I think, on that end, it's going to be a great World Cup."

The group was greeted by dancing and singing staff members on their arrival at the Irene Country Lodge. Police then led sniffer dogs through the hotel rooms in a final security sweep before the players were allowed in.

A colorful vuvuzela — the plastic trumpet which is set to be a constant feature at the World Cup — was left in each player's room as a welcome gift.

Coca Cola 600

Continued from page 12

But when he starts affecting me with his aggressiveness, I just will not put up with it. I've been around here long enough. I just will not tolerate it."

It soured yet another stellar comeback for Kyle Busch, who rallied from two laps down on Saturday to win the Nationwide Series race.

On Sunday, he was the leader when a bizarre sequence of events on Lap 167 changed the entire race.

Four-time defending series champion Jimmie Johnson was running fourth when he inexplicably hit the wall, and Denny Hamlin, running fifth, had to weave low through the grass to avoid hitting Johnson. Both cars sustained considerable damage and NASCAR called for a caution that sent everyone to pit road. Kyle Busch, at the time the strongest car in the race, ran into Brad Keselowski on pit road to damage his car. Even worse, NASCAR flagged him for speeding and he was forced to also serve a penalty. It dropped Kyle Busch all the way back to 26th in a race he maybe could have won.



He thought Burton's lecture was directed at the wrong driver — Busch said it was Bowyer, not him, who made it three-wide with Burton

on the restart — but still seemed pleased with the final outcome.

"It was a great night for us," he said.

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Henin loses to Stosur, who gets S. Williams next

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Justine Henin kept saying it, even if no one was listening.

She's not back to being the player she was before taking a 20-month hiatus from tennis. She's still searching for consistency on court. Too many "ups and downs," to use her term.

Turns out Henin was right. Betrayed down the stretch by her best stroke, the backhand, and by her usually steely nerves, the four-time French Open champion lost to No. 7-seeded Sam Stosur of Australia 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the fourth round Monday, ending Henin's 24-match winning streak at her favorite tournament.

"Everyone wants to see me (at) the level that I was," said Henin, who abruptly retired in May 2008 while ranked No. 1, then returned to the tour this season and reached the Australian Open final in January. "I still have to work a lot, quite simply."

Thanks to her 2005-07 titles at Roland Garros, and then the time away, it's been six years since Henin felt the sting of a loss at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament — all the way back in 2004's second round.

"Obviously, beating Justine is going to give me lots and lots of confidence for the next match," said Stosur, a French Open semifinalist in 2009 and a tour-best 18-2 on clay this year. "That's obviously a great achievement for me, but it's not over yet. I'm just in the quarters and going to play the No. 1 player in the world next." That would be Serena Williams, who stumbled at the start before cruising to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over No. 18 Shahar Peer of Israel. Williams dropped the first seven points of the match, then immediately took nine a row and was on her



Australia's Samantha Stosur, left, reacts after defeating Belgium's Justine Henin; and Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts after defeating USA's Robby Ginepri during their fourth round match for the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday May 31, 2010.

Associated Press

way.

"I seem to always be able to turn it up during this particular stage," said Williams, who won two of the past three Grand Slam tournaments and owns 12 major titles.

The other quarterfinal in that half of the draw will be No. 4 Jelena Jankovic of Serbia against 36th-ranked Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan. Jankovic beat No. 23 Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-2, while Shvedova eliminated 107th-ranked Jarmila Groth of Australia 6-4, 6-3.

In men's fourth-round matches, four-time champion Rafael Nadal improved to 200-16 on clay over his career by overcoming four breaks of serve to defeat No. 24 Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil 6-2, 7-5, 6-4. A year ago, Nadal lost in the fourth round — he was 31-0 at Roland Garros before that stunning exit against Robin Soderling — but he insisted that didn't make him any more careful this time.

Now Nadal will meet No. 19 Nicolas Almagro, who knocked off No. 7 Fernando Verdasco 6-4, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4. Also Monday, No. 3 Novak Djokovic of Serbia eliminated the last U.S. man in the tournament, 98th-ranked Robby Ginepri of Kennesaw,

Ga., 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, and No. 22 Jurgen Melzer of Austria beat 114th-ranked qualifier Teimuraz Gabashvili of Russia 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

At 29, Melzer is the oldest man left in the field. He's also reached his first Grand Slam quarterfinal in 32 appearances. "Well, to be the oldest player is not a special feeling," Melzer said. "Reaching the quarterfinals for the first time — that's a special feeling." Williams might have forgotten what it feels like to reach the semifinals in Paris: She hasn't been that far at the French Open since 2003, a year after she won her only championship at the tournament.

"I feel prepared every year, and I always dive out in the quarters," Williams said. "I'm just trying to get past that this year, hopefully."

She owns a 3-1 record against Stosur, including a victory at January's Australian Open. Stosur's win came on a hard court at Stanford, Calif., last year, and Williams was hardly complimentary afterward, saying: "She had a lot of lucky shots; she's a good framer."

Williams had nicer things to say Monday, calling Stosur "someone you can't overlook," and adding: "She's no pushover,



that's for sure."

Told of those remarks, and reminded about what Williams declared in 2009, Stosur smiled. "I guess a lot of people have changed their idea about what kind of tennis player I am recently," Stosur said. "I guess that's a good thing."

For years, she was known primarily as a doubles specialist, winning two Grand Slam titles apiece in mixed and women's. She began to fare better in singles in 2006, but then was off tour because of illness for about six months in 2007-08.

So she, like the 22nd-seeded Henin, knows what it's like to try to return to form after a layoff.

"I guess having that illness and being away from the game maybe scared me a little to think, 'OK, I've got to go out there and play and really try and achieve what I've wanted to,'" the 26-year-old Stosur said. On Monday, she was outplayed in the first set, then steadied herself, driving deep shots through the chilly, windy conditions and compiling a 20-8 edge in winners over the last two sets.

Midway through the second, Henin fell, then chucked her racket.

"To see that probably did give me that little bit of extra lift," Stosur said, "and (made me) realize I had her rattled."

Still, Henin looked to be in good shape when she went ahead 4-3 in the final set. The Belgian wouldn't win another game — and even harder to believe, she mainly was her own undoing.

"My nerves were simply not strong enough today," said Henin, playing for a fifth consecutive day because of disruptive weather.

At 4-all, Henin's pair of missed backhands and a double-fault led to a break. On the first point of the following game, with Stosur way out of position, Henin put a backhand into the net.

Then she missed two more backhands to set up match point. Second later, Henin was walking to the net, extending her right arm to shake hands and offer congratulations to her opponent.

It had been a while since she had to do that at the French Open.

"Disappointing. I mean, (it's) never easy to lose, and especially in this kind of situation," Henin said. "I just wanted so much that the adventure could keep going."



On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

*Kimberly Kuiperi &
Mageia Italian Boutique*
**An evening of
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PALM BEACH - Mageia Italian Boutique recruited the island's best talents to make the annual Summer Fashion show spectacular. Set up by the High Performance Group and designer/decorator Gareth Tromp, the L-shaped runway was lined with comfortable chairs on the terrace of Gianni's Italian Restaurant, which filled with island Fashinistas.

Continued on page 5

Soul Beach Music Festival 2010

Soul Divas tear down the house



SAN NICOLAS – The stadium in San Nicolas was comfortably filled to the hilt both Saturday night for the 10th Annual Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba and featured legendary talent and the best of R&B, soulful performances that satisfied connoisseurs of pure grooves. More pictures on Page 8 and 9

Photos by Julia Renfro

This weekend June 4 and 6

Popular Izaline Callister live in concert in Cas di Cultura



ORANJESTAD - Izaline Callister, winner of the Edison Award 2009 and hit performer of the 2009 Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival on Aruba, can be seen live in concert on the stage of Cas di Cultura this coming weekend. The fabulous jazz singer, who has taken age-old Caribbean rhythms to a next, jazzy level, found herself faced with an unexpected gap in her busy schedule and decided to fly to Aruba and Curaçao to present her new-born baby to her friends and family members. Izaline will perform in the company of her entire band on June 4 and 6. Tickets cost AWG. 75,-; they are available at CD's & More, Magic FM, Superfood, the Entertainment Group building and at Cas di Cultura. Keeping Izaline's incredible number of dedicated fans, who thronged to Cas di Cultura to hear her

sing during the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival in mind, her two performances will surely sell out quickly. For those who do not know her yet: come and see her on stage. This high profile singer is not aloof, on the contrary: her personality shines through and her interaction with her audience makes that everybody just loves her dearly. Izaline's winning of

the Dutch Edison Award did not come as a great surprise: she had been nominated three years in a row already before she won with her release 'Speransa'. The Edison is the oldest music award in The Netherlands; it is presented annually since 1960 by the collective Dutch music industry. The Edison is equivalent to the American Grammy Award.





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Aruba refinery union happy with the Parliamentary support for Valero

Aruba settlement agreement with Valero gets green light

'You can't throw away old shoes, before buying new ones'

ORANJESTAD — The International Oil Workers Union Aruba, IOWUA is thrilled that Parliament has given green light to the settlement agreement between the Aruba Government and Valero, as this could mean restart of operations here. IOWUA President Johannes 'Boy' Anthony said the union, backed by the Valero Council (council of all Valero unions) and the USW, urged Parliament members of Aruba to back the settlement agreement, in the general interest, not only for the personnel of the refinery here, but that of the entire country. He is happy Parliament members of AVP and PDR have responded positively to the changes in law that will enable the government to settle tax disputes with Valero, as well as enabling a new fiscal regime under which the refinery here can operate. That fiscal regime is for 20 years and according to the government will provide security either for Valero or any other operator that it will not unpleasantly surprised with random taxes as has been the case of the previous government. According to Valero, the imposition of a value added tax, BBO, on export was detrimental to the competitive position of the Aruba refinery, especially in a period of economic crisis. The laws passed in Parliament eliminated among others, the BBO on export for the refinery. However for Valero Aruba employees the deal has additional meaning. It could open the door for cooperation agreements with the Colombian petroleum companies Pacific Rubiales (traded on the Canadian stock market) or Ecopetrol, or even with PDVSA from Venezuela. And any cooperation of joint venture agreement will translate to a restart of the refinery and job security for the some 600 employees and thousands of contract workers. The latter group was sent home last year when the operations were shut

down. Valero held on to its own personnel and has been paying their salaries since July of last year, despite the production halt. Anthony did not focus too much on the fact MEP Parliament members rejected the settlement agreement. MEP argued that they would only support the agreement if Valero can guarantee that it will keep all employees in service, despite what happens. In the settlement agreement, Valero guaranteed it would hold on to its Aruba personnel until June. "I don't believe in such guarantee. My priority is for the refinery to remain open, for us and for the contractors. Many seem to forget about the thousand of contractors, fathers and mothers who were left without a job." In fact, Anthony emphasized the restart of refining operation is in the benefit of everyone on the island.

'Boy' Anthony said that Aruba refinery workers, thus including contractors have always worked sublimely, contributing to major profits for the operator. However, he also acknowledged that the fact Valero made substantial profits with its Aruba refinery in the past, it does not mean the company is facing major economic challenges because of the economic crisis. The union leader said he was able to experience for himself how the crisis affected the Delaware plant, where all employees were sent home. "The fact Valero continued paying us for 12 months, including our bonuses,



without production, is a sign that the company recognizes the strategic value of Aruba," was his conclusion.

There are signs that the refinery may be close to a deal with other partners, Anthony continued. At this moment, work is being conducted to make sure every valve is lubricated, that every knob is in its place. "This is what is called 'scoping.' It means preparatory work for turnarounds (general maintenance and upgrading). Moreover, observers noted the cleaning up of barracks within the refinery grounds, indicating new activities. "I am convinced the refinery will start up again."

There are a lot of voices in Aruba who say that perhaps it is time

to close the refining chapter in Aruba and to start looking for new industries. Oil is on its way out and in addition, the pollution factor is something to be considered as well. Anthony said he has understanding for this point of view. "But, I seriously believe that you can't throw away old shoes, before buying new ones." With the current economic crisis, any new direction will take time, including moving toward clean, green energy and industries. The same goes for the environmental impact of the refinery. "Valero has done more than any other company to minimize impact on the environment. It invested millions in its sulfur plant and had other long term projects." The union leader said it is time to

start preparing for the future, but now is not the time to close down the refinery.

In the meantime, IOWUA informed USW Vice President Gary Beavers on the settlement agreement and urged the US union executive to talk to Valero in San Antonio in order to convince them to keep the Aruba personnel beyond June 1st. "It is important to know what Valero will do, now that Aruba complied with its part," he stressed. Today he will meet with Valero Aruba Vice President Ray Buckley with the same petition. IOWUA also asked the government to speak with Valero executives on the matter.

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Westin cafeteria gets some soul!



PALM BEACH – Throughout the year, various departments team up to produce a special themed luncheon for fellow co-workers in the cafeteria of the Westin Resort, Aruba. Last Friday, it was the Executive Committee's turn.

In the spirit of the Soul Beach Music Festival, associates enjoyed a traditional "soul food" lunch of fried chicken, collard greens, mac n' cheese, black-eyed peas, Creole-style fish, biscuits and corn bread, and gumbo soup, along with great rhythm and blues tunes. Twenty-four tickets to the Soul Beach Music Festival were also raffled off.



Kimberly Kuiperi & Mageia Italian Boutique

An evening of Glamour presented by Miss World Aruba 2010



PALM BEACH - Mageia Italian Boutique recruited the island's best talents to make the annual Summer Fashion show spectacular. Set up by the High Performance Group and designer/decorator Gareth Tromp, the L-shaped runway was lined with comfortable chairs on the terrace of Gianni's Italian Restaurant, which filled with island Fashionistas.

Super model Kimberly and her best friends Angie, Casia, Zilha, Tracy, Sjari & Julieta showed off prêt-a-porter creations by Mageia's Italian designers: Patricia Pepe, Paola Frani, Café del Mar, Tuwe Italia, Anya Bye and Miss Bikini, complemented by multi-function clutches and bags by Gianni Chiarini, and Patricia Pepe hats and accessories. The show was sweetly emceed by Joasey v/d Biezen.

The collection went back to the 80s and was trotted down the runway in color groups, taking off with tribal prints in shades of brown, and gold, blending into yellow and black, then champagne, pink, peach, red, lavender, grey, lilac and finally sea-foam green, royal blue and tiel.

The very glittery collection presented very short dresses and shorts, as well as long, flowy, clingy dresses.

The pants were both skinny and over-sized, in the Sharwal harem pants style, also showing drop-crotch pants, so popular in the 80s.

Models wore head bands, and Julieta with her straight blonde hair, sported an authentic 70s look.

The fabrics of the collection were soft and feminine, and were also used in sashes and belts, tied low around the waist, or slung loose around necks, with an assortment of chain belts, and wide leather belts, adding to the nostalgic look at the fashion of three decades ago.

Angie even showed off a terrific Charleston dress, taking us back even further, to the roaring 20s.

Everything from cropped pants to bathing suits, and cover ups was loaded with payette and rhinestones, dazzling in the light



reflections.

While many dresses showcased bare shoulders, or off-shoulder asymmetry, they also paid close attention to backs and arm, with plunging backlines and revealing open sides.

All models were phenomenal, Casia, celebrating almost 20 years of modeling, looks tremendous in bathing suits and dresses, while Sjari's bad attitude, should be bottled, she is a fantastic model. Zilha adds some theatrics to her walk, which the photographers enjoy and Tracy adds vavoom to all clothes she wears.

Miss Work Aruba 2010 Kimberly Kuiperi who is going to compete in Vietnam in November reports that the fund-raising event was designed to prepare for the upcoming pageant. And while she did not pick a designer yet, she will definitely host another fashion extravaganza when her wardrobe is done. Kimberly, also reports, she will be escorted by her mom, her greatest supporter, on the trip to the Orient.

With make up and hair by Vice Versa and make-up artist Alexandra Ochoa, Kimberly looked radiant and totally present, meeting and greeting her guests warmly, then becoming



the star of the runway, with the Mageia Summer collection. She is indeed a beautiful person inside out and her presentation was flawless.

DJ Theo Sanders created a perfect sound track taking us back to American & European Avant-Guard Rock and New Wave, mixed with post disco dance tunes from the Rolling Stones, Heaven 17, Human League, Velvet Underground to Depech Mode. He has a great sense of humor, which comes through in his mixing. The music went well with free flowing champagne by Romar Trading and most delicious hors d'oeuvres by Gianni's restaurant and the Ferrara family who generously made the extravaganza possible.



EQ3 moved to Schotlandstraat, you are invited to visit!



ORANJESTAD – The popular EQ3 Furniture + Accents just moved to its new showroom location at Schotlandstraat 45, across the street from Ling & Sons Super Center, adjacent to Write Here.

Owner Lynn Maduro offered a champagne toast to close family members and friends on Saturday, in honor of the festive opening.

EQ3 Furniture + Accents furnishes homes, condos and offices with style and elegance. Store hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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PG **SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D**
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 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:15

PG-13 **DEATH AT A FUNERAL**
 daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15
 matinee: 12:15 2:30 late show: 11:30

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 daily: 4:15 6:30 8:45
 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:00

PG-13 **IRON MAN 2**
 daily: 6:15 9:00
 matinee: 12:45 3:30 late show: 11:45

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R **SEX AND THE CITY**
NEW daily: 5:45 8:30
 matinee: 12:00 2:45 late show: 11:30

PG **JUST WRIGHT**
 daily: 4:15 6:45 9:15
 matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:30

PG-13 **ROBIN HOOD**
 daily: 4:30 7:45
 matinee: 1:00 late show: 11:00

PG-13 **SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D**
 daily: 4:00 6:30 8:45
 matinee: 1:15 late show: 11:15

PG **LETTERS TO JULIET**
 daily: 4:30 7:00 9:30
 matinee: 1:30 late show: 12:00

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the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater,

every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees, then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes! Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a

IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show

Where: Westin - Aruba, Palm beach (high-rise area)

Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld

ShowTime: 9:00 pm, nightly, (7 days a week) theater opens at 8:30pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE: AT THEATER OF ILLUSIONS box office located in Westin lobby starting at 7:30pm nightly up until showtime, or at front desk at anytime

Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$34.95 adults



triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba, and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a

collaborated work with new england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film. SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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10th Annual Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba

Tantilating live performances on Aruba by Mary J. Blige and Toni Braxton



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



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Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

speaking a universal language of love and respect as Mary continues to captivate the hearts of her loyal fans. On Sunday, May 30th the music extravaganza continued at Joe Laveist Stadium with consummate entertainers bringing a rich melodic blend of velvety lyrics and stage effervescence streaming three nights of magical concerts to deliver the closing expose from performances.

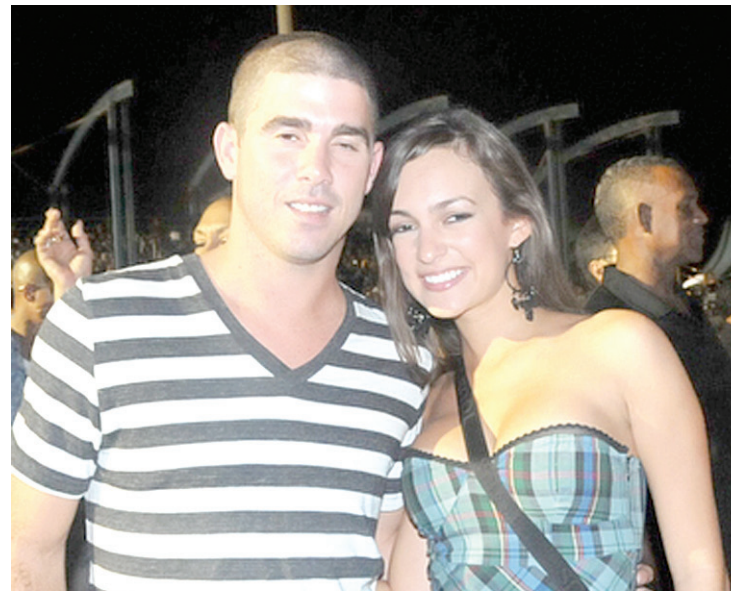


Photo by Julia Renfro



SAN NICOLAS – On Saturday, May 29th the musical fireworks sparked at Joe Laveist Stadium with gifted, spirited and mind-blowing performances. Mary J. Blige - There's little, if any, denying that Mary J. Blige is one of the greatest singers of our time. The proof is in the consistent #1 albums and singles, six (9) Grammy awards, seven (8) multi-platinum records and 15-years of love from the public, critics and fellow artists. Since her 1992 debut - the modern

classic What's the 411 to her 2005 Breakthrough Mary J. Blige has helped to redefine R&B. More importantly, Mary J has been an artist that uses her gift to lift spirits, touch lives and bring her heart, soul and truth to those who are willing to listen. Mary's eighth studio CD, Growing Pains, comes on the heels of Mary's best-selling anthology Reflections (2006). Her latest single "I Am" from her Stronger with Each Tear album releases undeniable lyrics that



Toni Braxton - With an impressive catalog of six albums (alongside 2003's best-selling Ultimate Collection), Toni Braxton has built a worldwide base of music lovers since she first burst onto the contemporary music scene in 1991 with "Love Shoulda Brought You Home" (from the soundtrack of the hit movie "Boomerang"). As the 'First Lady Of LaFace Records,'

Toni's creative partnership with Antonio 'L.A.' Reid and Kenneth 'Babyface' Edmonds yielded a non-stop run of multi-platinum albums with 1993's Toni Braxton, 1996's Secrets to the 2000 set The Heat. Along the way, Toni distinguished herself with unforgettable hit singles such as "Another Sad Love Song," "Breathe Again," "Un-Break My Heart," "You're Makin'

Me High" and "He Wasn't Man Enough" picking up five Grammy Awards in the process. In 2008 she received critical acclaim for her debut show, Toni Braxton: Revealed at the Flamingo Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. Her new single, "Hands Tied" from her sixth album release, Pulse, shows off her timeless lyrical brilliancy.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

At Occidental Grand

Thais & Bill exchange rings & vows at Sunset



PALM BEACH - Thais Mootz & Bill Burlew were married before family and friends at the Occidental Grand this past weekend followed by a champagne and cake cutting ceremony on the beach as the sunset into the Caribbean Sea.

Wedding Coordinator Kimberly Dammerman orchestrated the enchanted evening to the last detail of perfection and photography by Bella Aruba Photography. Congratulations from Occidental Grand and Aruba Today!!! ~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," Fodor's Travel Guide



Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh

seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond.

In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's

largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday. ☐

Carly Gordon & Gil Vaknin host a pre-wedding party at El Gaucho

ORANJESTAD — Lovebirds Carly Gordon and Gil Vaknin hosted a lively rehearsal dinner at El Gaucho Argentine Grill in the heart of Oranjestad. The party took off with a two-hour cocktail party and

was followed by a selection of the restaurant's best appetizers, main courses and desserts, including the famed Gaucho Steak!

Staying at the Marriott Aruba Resort, Carly & Gil tied the knot on the



beach the following day, with more than 90 guests in attendance, all hailing from as far as New York, Florida, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Washington DC and Virginia.

El Gaucho hosted the pre-wedding celebration in the private banquet room, with live music by guitarists Carlos & Jonathan Sanchez.



Ugly Face of Populism

Creators Syndicate – Are the likes of Rand Paul and Russell Pearce becoming the face of the Republican Party? Let's hope not. Paul, an ophthalmologist who recently became the Senate nominee from Kentucky, has already embroiled himself in controversy over his comments about the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Pearce, the Arizona legislator who sponsored the state's tough anti-illegal immigrant law, has now decided to target not only illegal immigrants but their U.S.-citizen children as well. Both men represent the soft underbelly of the populist movement that catapulted them to fame — and a danger to the future of the Republican Party. Paul's comments on the Civil Rights Act, which he has tried to soften in the ensuing days since he uttered them on the left-wing Rachel Maddow show on MSNBC, were no mere faux pas. His simple answer to Maddow's direct question, "Do you think that a private business has the

right to say we don't serve black people?" was "Yes." He went on to try to qualify his affirmative answer by saying he personally opposed discrimination of all sorts — including by private businesses. And he has since assured everyone that he doesn't want to repeal the act's public accommodations section (or presumably Title VII of the act, which prohibits discrimination in hiring).

But Paul's clarifications miss the point. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 — especially its prohibition against private discrimination — is one of the most important and affirming pieces of legislation in our nation's history. The act and its successors, the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1968 Fair Housing Act, represent the our nation's highest principle: the guarantee that all persons are equal under the law, a promise made explicit by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. And the 14th Amendment appears to be the next target of

Republican populists. Arizona State Sen. Russell Pearce, in an e-mail sent to supporters, recently said that he would offer legislation "that would refuse to accept or issue a birth certificate that recognizes citizenship to those born to illegal aliens, unless one parent is a citizen."

But the 14th Amendment is unambiguous on the issue: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Pearce believes that the language "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" provides a loophole. He's unequivocally wrong. The

qualification originally applied to diplomats and to Indian tribes, who at various times and to varying degrees have been considered sovereign. Sadly, Pearce is not alone among Republicans attempting to gut the 14th Amendment. Similar legislation has been introduced in Congress, the latest version of which has more than 90 co-sponsors, all but two of whom are Republicans.

Pearce is a nasty piece of work. In the e-mail to supporters on citizenship, Pearce forwarded a supporter's view that the bill might be deemed sexist, but that "we need to target the mother. ... Men don't drop anchor babies, illegal alien mothers do." When asked by a reporter what he thought of the language, Pearce said he didn't see anything wrong with it.

And it wasn't the first time Pearce said or did something unsavory. When a photograph of Pearce with a local neo-Nazi surfaced in 2007, he claimed not to know the

fellow's affiliation. He made the same defense in 2006 when he sent out an e-mail to supporters that included an attachment from a white supremacist organization. The Republican Party cannot allow extremists to become its public face. The party's history in promoting civil rights is an honorable one, from the time of its founding as the anti-slavery party to the passage of the very civil rights law Paul criticized. If not for Republicans, there would be no Civil Rights Act of 1964. A larger percentage of Republicans than Democrats, 82 percent to 66 percent, supported the bill in the key Senate vote, which led to its final passage.

It's time the GOP got back to its roots and disavows these ugly sentiments.

Linda Chavez is the author of "An Unlikely Conservative: The Transformation of an Ex-Liberal." To find out more about Linda Chavez, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Preposterous Bill Press

Radio talk-show host Bill Press is the tiniest of fish in the radio ocean, but this minnow's all over the place complaining about the whales. The problem is, of course, that if the market is any kind of measurement, no one knows, or cares, that he's written a book. So he's written a column to self-tout "Toxic Talk: How the Radical Right Has Poisoned America's Airwaves."

Press writes about the good ol' days of civil discourse, but "that's not what we hear nonstop today." And who's to blame? "Honest disagreement on the issues has been replaced by a barrage of ugly name-calling from today's ministers of hate on the right." OK, then let's see the evidence. But first, let's dispense with the Michael Savage examples, shall we? Press cites this phony as screaming to a gay activist, "You should get AIDS and die, you pig!" That is true, but Press doesn't tell you that a) that was not on his radio show; it was on MSNBC, and b) Savage was loudly condemned by conservatives (like yours truly), and MSNBC was congratulated when he was fired, though some of us also pointed out that MSNBC should never have hired this bigot in the first place. That example is evidence Press is doing a clip job, not a research project.

Besides, it's Limbaugh that Press is after. He bestows on Rush the title of "Hate Monger Number One." Why? Horrors. Rush called Elena Kagan a "socialist," a woman being rushed to confirmation "before her radicalism is understood by the public." Rush also said Obama is "plotting to overthrow core American values." I'm not kidding. Those are Press' examples.

What other "toxic" proof does he have? Sean Hannity asked about Obama: "Is there anything that he likes about this country?" Dear Bill: This might seem more outrageous if Obama wasn't skipping the traditional Memorial Day observance at Arlington Cemetery so he can be in Chicago.

Press said Mark Levin attacked Sonia Sotomayor as a "radical leftist" and a "bigot." Again, if Sotomayor had not said "a wise Latina woman with the richness

of her experiences" could judge better than white guys, maybe she wouldn't stand accused of bigotry. Glenn Beck said Obama is "trying to destroy the country" and is "pushing America toward civil war." He warned Christians to leave their churches if they hear the words "social justice." Honey, hide the kids!

But wait. It's about to get better. He also writes in his column: "You never hear those kinds of ugly comments from progressive talkers Ed Schultz, Stephanie Miller, or Thom Hartmann, if you can find them on your radio dial at all."

Never?

Who said this: "You're damn right, Dick Cheney's heart's a political football. We ought to rip it out and kick it around and stuff it back in him. I'm glad he didn't tip over. He is the new poster child for health care in this country."

Who said this: "How can Evan Bayh sit there as an honest player for health care reform when his wife works for an (insurance) industry that is just absolutely butchering the American people?" The same host denounced Mrs. Joe Lieberman: "Does the word 'whore' apply? Are we there yet?"

Who said this: "You rat bastards are going to cause another Murrah Federal Building explosion, you are. And then ... maybe at that point, Beck will do the honorable thing and blow his brains out. Maybe at that point, Limbaugh will do the honorable thing and just gobble up enough Viagra that he becomes absolutely rigid and keels over dead. Maybe then O'Reilly will just drink a vat of the poison he spews out on America every night and choke to death." Even the Christian evangelist Franklin Graham recently made this host's please-kill-yourself list.

Who offered a Limbaugh song parody, with lyrics including these: "I'm a Nazi! ... That's right! I really I am! ... I'm a Nazi! That's right, you're being scammed! I'm a Nazi! I don't care about the middle class. I'm a big fat conservative butthead, with the face of a horse's ass."



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Tormenta tropical Agatha mata a 142 en Centroamérica

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De León afirma que la situación de todo el departamento de Chimaltenango, es igual a la tragedia vivida por la población de Santa Apolonia, a unos 60 kilómetros al oeste de la capital guatemalteca: los desprendimientos de tierra cubrieron decenas de comunidades indígenas rurales en la zona.

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“Estaba lloviendo bien recio y hubo un ruido tremendo y cuando salimos a ver ya se



Pobladores cubren los ataúdes de víctimas de los deslaves provocados por la tormenta Agatha en la población guatemalteca de Santa Apolonia. El fenómeno dejó 142 muertos en Guatemala, El Salvador y Honduras. Santa Apolonia, Guatemala, lunes 31 de mayo de 2010. (AP foto/Moises Castillo)

había venido la peña... ahora todo el mundo tiene miedo que esto les pase en sus casas porque toda la tierra está suelta, por eso estamos viviendo en la escuela”, dijo Vicente Azcaj de 56 años, vecino de la localidad.

Los derrumbes provocados por las torrenciales lluvias no solo destruyeron viviendas. Bloquearon caminos y rompieron tuberías de agua. “No tienen qué beber y hasta hoy (lunes) logramos destapar la carretera”, añadió el alcalde de Santa Apolonia Tulio Nuñez.

Se quejó de la respuesta del gobernador en un mensaje de texto: “Lo siento hermano no tengo gente para apoyarte en busca soterrados”.

Según de León el departamento de Chimaltenango está devastado. “Hay muchos muertos, las carreteras están bloqueadas, los albergues rebasados. Necesitamos agua, víveres, ropa, frazadas pero sobre todo, dinero”.

Los hombres de las aldeas cercanas a Parajbei trabajaron sin descanso desde el domingo para rescatar los 11 cadáveres de tres familias que murieron

soterradas.

El lunes pudieron descansar al encontrar a los últimos dos, un par de hermanos de 8 y 4 años de edad que estaban bajo toneladas de tierra, piedras y arboles que sepultaron sus casas de lámina.

Su premio: un plato de frijoles y arroz que el alcalde llevó en vehículos todo terreno. “Es poquito, pero es con

corazón”, les arengó Nuñez a los pobladores con la ayuda de un intérprete.

En Honduras, la portavoz de la Comisión Permanente de Contingencias, Vanessa Morales, dijo el lunes a la AP que la tormenta dejó por lo menos 14 muertos.

“Este día nos dedicaremos a buscar más lesionados y a reconstruir el país”, afirmó.

Las autoridades hondureñas que 3.485 personas fueron evacuadas, otras 3.268 ubicadas en albergues y 428 resultaron damnificadas. la tormenta destruyó 144 casas y daño otras 709, once puentes, y 2.526 hectáreas agrícolas. Dañó centenares de carreteras, puentes, escuelas estatales y edificios públicos.

En El Salvador, donde se registraron nueve muertos, dos desaparecidos y 11.000 evacuados, el presidente Mauricio Funes mantuvo el estado de máxima alerta.

El jefe de la Dirección General de Protección Civil, Jorge Meléndez, informó el lunes que las lluvias causaron el desborde del caudaloso Río Lempa provocando inundaciones en al menos 20 pequeñas comunidades afectando a unos 6.000 pobladores.

El ministro de Obras Públicas, Gerson Martínez, agregó que el 95% de las carreteras del país están afectadas debido a unos 179 derrumbes o destrucción de puentes, incluido uno cercano al paso aduanal Las Chinamas, en la frontera con Guatemala.

BID: créditos de 10.000 mln dlr a América Latina 2010

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - El Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) está listo para desembolsar 10.000 millones de dólares para América Latina este año, dijo el lunes el jefe de la institución. Debido a la crisis financiera global, el organismo multilateral había aprobado un récord de 15.500 millones de dólares en el 2009.

“Estamos preparados para hacer desembolsos del orden de unos 10.000 millones de dólares para la región, tanto para el sector público como el sector privado”, dijo en una conferencia de prensa en Santiago el presidente del BID, Luis Moreno.

El organismo acordó en marzo aumentar el capital de la institución por 70.000 millones de dólares para evitar reducir su capacidad de préstamo por consecuencia de las históricas aprobaciones del año anterior. La meta del organismo es tener la capacidad de aprobar créditos por 12.000 millones de dólares anuales hasta el 2020.

Candidatos presidenciales Santos y Mockus buscan alianzas claves en Colombia

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - Los candidatos presidenciales que se medirán en una segunda vuelta electoral en Colombia comenzaron el lunes a buscar alianzas, el oficialista Juan Manuel Santos a partir de una sorpresiva y cómoda victoria y el independiente Antanas Mockus reconociendo que será difícil, pero no imposible, superarlo.

Santos, ex ministro de Defensa del presidente Alvaro Uribe, logró un 46,56 por ciento de los votos -6,75 millones- contra un 21,49 por ciento -3,12 millones- de Mockus, un matemático y filósofo de origen lituano que fue alcalde de Bogotá.

Todas las encuestas sobre intención de voto que fueron publicadas hasta una semana antes de la primera vuelta pronosticaban una cerrada votación entre Santos y Mockus. De acuerdo con expertos, recientes declaraciones del ex alcalde de Bogotá como su intención de subir los impuestos, le restaron apoyo de los electores, mientras que favorecieron al candidato de Cambio Radical, Germán Vargas, quien obtuvo un 10,13 por ciento de los votos -1,47 millones-.

El resultado convirtió a Cambio Radical y a Vargas en una fuerza decisiva para la segunda vuelta del 20 de junio.

Pese a los escándalos de corrupción, de ejecuciones extrajudiciales e interceptaciones ilegales de comunicaciones que surgieron en el Gobierno del presidente Alvaro Uribe en los últimos meses, Santos logró capitalizar la herencia política del popular mandatario al conseguir la alta votación.

Tampoco le restaron apoyo las diferencias expresadas con la revolución socialista del presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez ni el proceso judicial que se le sigue en Quito por haber ordenado un operativo militar contra la guerrilla en territorio ecuatoriano, hechos que de ganar Santos augurarían para Colombia un

futuro mayor distanciamiento con sus vecinos.

El candidato oficialista insistió en que para la segunda vuelta buscará el apoyo del Partido Conservador, de Cambio Radical y del liberalismo para asegurar su triunfo y conformar un Gobierno de unidad nacional. Admitió que las alianzas serán definitivas para consolidar el triunfo.

“Por supuesto que me interesa que ellos hagan parte de esta iniciativa de Gobierno de unidad nacional, el Partido Conservador ha sido un socio fundamental y estratégico, lo mismo que Cambio Radical y el Partido Liberal es bienvenido”, aseguró Santos, un economista de 58 años.

“NO ES PROBABLE PERO ES POSIBLE”

Por su parte Mockus, de 58 años, admitió que no esperaba un triunfo tan amplio de Santos, pero destacó que logró el objetivo de pasar a la segunda vuelta.

El matemático que a veces confunde a sus seguidores con sus discursos poco entendibles dijo que propondrá alternativas y convocará a los ciudadanos para que lo apoyen.

“Aunque no es fácil, está la posibilidad, es clara y lógicamente posible, no es probable pero es posible”, dijo Mockus, quien dejó entrever que más que las alianzas con partidos buscará el apoyo directo de los electores para revertir el favoritismo con que llegará Santos.

Mockus anunció que el Partido Verde es la segunda fuerza política de Colombia y que buscará consolidarse para las elecciones de alcaldes y gobernadores.

Pese al sentimiento de triunfo de sus seguidores, Santos les pidió no bajar la guardia, acudir masivamente a las urnas para ratificar la victoria y dijo que los resultados confirman que “el pueblo colombiano no quiere, así a algunos les duela, un salto vacío”.

Por su parte, el líder de Cambio Radical dijo que la decisión sobre posibles alianzas será



El candidato a la presidencia de Colombia del Partido de la ‘U’, Juan Manuel Santos, saluda a sus partidarios en Bogotá luego de ganar la primera vuelta en las elecciones, mayo 30 2010. REUTERS/ Jose Miguel Gomez (COLOMBIA)

tomada esta semana por una junta de parlamentarios de ese partido.

Pero analistas dan casi por seguro que ese partido, que hizo parte de la coalición del

Gobierno de Uribe, apoyará a Santos, en una alianza que garantizaría su triunfo.

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